

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7715
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1314

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, SF, AO
SUBJECT: PRESS ARTICLE ON ARRIVAL REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

FOLLOWING SMALL, INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY
AMBASSADOR MCHENRY AFTER ARRIVAL JOHANNESBURG MAY 23,
RAND DAILY MAIL OF MORNING MAY 24 RAN PAGE-ONE ARTICLE AS
FOLLOWS:

BEGIN ARTICLE:

MCHENRY SLAMS SA ON ANGOLA RAID

THE UNITED STATES LAST NIGHT LAUNCHED A MAJOR NEW
OFFENSIVE TO BREAK DEADLOCKS IN INDEPENDENCE NEGOTIATIONS
OVER SOUTH WEST AFRICA, DECLARING SOUTH AFRICA HAD " SUB-
STANTIALLY" DAMAGED SETTLEMENT EFFORTS WITH ITS RECENT
RAID AGAINST SWAPO BASES IN ANGOLA.

IN A SCATHING ATTACK ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION, MR
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DON MCHENRY, US DEPUTY AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
SAID ON HIS ARRIVAL AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT HE WOULD NOW HAVE
TO ESTABLISH " CONDITIONS OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE" BETWEEN
THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE SWAPO GUERRILLA MOVEMENT.

" THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION IN THAT ATTACK WENT A LONG
WAY TO DEALING A SUBSTANTIAL BLOW TO OUR EFFORTS, " MR. MCHENRY

SAID.

SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIONS IN THE DISPUTED TERRITORY HAD NOT ONLY SPARKED A " SPIRAL OF REPRESSION AND VIOLENCE" BUT WERE " FAR OUT OF PROPORTION TO ANYTHING SWAPO HAS BEEN DOING". HE SAID.

MR. MCHENRY, WHO LEFT FOR WINDHOEK EARLY TODAY SAID A " DISTURBING EFFECT" OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAID INTO ANGOLA HAD BEEN TO DAMAGE ATTITUDES OF FRONTLINE AFRICAN COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN WESTERN NATIONS' ATTEMPTS TO NEGOTIATION A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

" I WOULD HOPE THERE WILL BE SOME POSITIVE STEPS BY SOUTH AFRICA", MR. MCHENRY SAID.

HE REFUSED TO ELABORATE ON WHAT THE WESTERN NEGOTIATING TEAM NOW EXPECTED FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

" I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WHAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD DO. I THINK THEY ARE WELL AWARE OF THAT", HE SAID.

PERSISTENTLY QUESTIONED, MR MCHENRY SAID HIS FIRST PRIORITY ON HIS SOUTHERN AFRICAN PEACE MISSION WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO " GET OVER THE DISTRUST CREATED BY SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION IN ANGOLA".

HE SUGGESTED IT WAS NECESSARY TO " RECONSTRUCT" NEGOTIATIONS. END ARTICLE.
JOHNSON

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